THE FOURTH DAY.

21st November, 1907.

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Thursday, the 21st November.

On taking his seat, the Dewan spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen,—Before we begin the work of this day, I may mention that, in another four days, we shall have a vacancy of a non-official seat in the Legislative Council, due to the retirement, by efflux of time, of Mr. E. J. John. Government invite the members who have come to this Assembly from the Kottayam Division to meet and nominate a member for the vacancy. We do not undertake either to approve of the nomination or to appoint the man whom you nominate, but we would like to see how you do it. Hence our proposal, as a tentative measure, asking you to select a member. The Peishkar of the Division is here. He will be instructed to assemble all the Kottayam members and see that they proceed to the selection of a name for submission to Government. Government will take that nomination into consideration before appointing a member to the vacancy. I must tell you that we consider that these appointments should be honorary. Government do not propose to give any new member the honorarium of Rs. 500 per annum given hitherto. The member concerned will, however, be paid travelling allowance, and for that purpose he will be treated as a first class officer. He will get a mileage of eight annas and also a batta of five rupees per diem for halts at Trivandrum when he comes in connection with the business of the Council.

SUBJECTS.

The subjects were then taken up.

84. Separation of the Devaswom from the Revenue department.

Mr. C. Mathew (Member, Karthigapalli Taluk) urged the separation of the Devaswom from the Revenue department. This would facilitate the efficient working of both the departments and remove the disabilities of Christians and Elavas in not getting admission into the Revenue department. He also proposed the appointment of a Commissioner and managers under him for the administration of the Devaswom department.

Dewan's reply.—The views of the member are noted.

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